Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 020155 ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /069 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:HTNELSON:PP APPROVED BY EA/EHEGINBOTHAM EA/ANP:CASQUIRE

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R 282114Z JAN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON AMEMBASSY SUVA INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAID, PFOR, XP

SUBJECT: AID TO SOUTH PACIFIC

REF: A. CANBERRA 491 B. WELLINGTON 257

- , PLEASED TO HEAR YOUR CONSULTATIONS IN WELLINGTON AND CANBERRA WENT WELL AND THAT AUSTRALIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS HAVE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING LIMITED NATURE AND PURPOSE OF ANY US AID PROGRAM IN SOPAC.
- 2. AS ALL CONCERNED ARE AWARE, WE ALSO HAVE DOUBTS AS TO VIABILITY OF FORUM SHIPPING LINE IF, INDEED, LINE IS EVER ESTABLISHED. OUR LIMITED SUPPORT FOR THE LINE IS BASED ON OBVIOUS NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN REGIONAL SHIPPING SERVICE, WHETHER IT CAN BE DONE ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS OR NOT, AND NEED FOR POLITICAL GESTURE WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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DEMONSTRATES OUR INTEREST IN THE REGION, BOTH TO THE ISLANDERS AND OUR AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ALLIES. ON THIS BASIS, YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO OFFER VESSEL TO GOWS ON BASIS PREVIOUSLY AGREED ON IN WASHINGTON, I.E. "AS IS, WHERE IS", WITH INVITATION TO GOWS TO INSPECT VESSEL THEMSELVES OR ARRANGE FOR COMPLETE MARINE SURVEY

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AT GOWS EXPENSE BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER VESSEL, IF RECONDITIONED, WOULD MEET NEEDS OF GOWS. IN THIS CONNECTION NELSON SUGGESTS CAPTAIN BARNETT OF GILBERT ISLANDS MARINE TRAINING SCHOOL OR CMDR. BROWN OF FIJIAN NAVY MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE IF SAMOANS DO NOT HAVE QUALIFIED MARINE SURVEYOR WHO CAN EVALUATE THIS VESSEL. WE NOTE REF B INDICATED EEC MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST WITH REHABILITATION COSTS IF REQUESTED BY GOWS.

3. FOR WELLINGTON: WE WILL CABLE INVENTORY OF USA CE EQUIPMENT REMAINING IN AMERICAN SAMOA ASAP. THERE ARE ONLY A FEW ITEMS AND THEY ARE IN POOR CONDITION. GAS HAS PRIOR CLAIM TO THIS EQUIPMENT AND EVIDENTLY DOES NOT INTEND TO SHARE WITH THEIR WESTERN SAMOAN COUSINS. VANCE

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